GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3030
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2000
EXPLORATION WORK IN BIHAR
RAJESH RANJAN (PAPPU YADAV)

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a digging of only five wells till now in the vast plain area of the Ganga in Bihar is inadequate for the prospect of the exploration of oil and natural gas;

(b) if so, whether thirty five wells have been dug so far in the comparatively small basin of the Ganga of West Bengal, the neighbouring State of Bihar;

(c) if so, whether the Government are adopting double standards in this regards;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to dig wells in Bihar in a larger number; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (e): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has drilled six exploratory wells in various parts of Bihar covering various geological settings within the Ganga basin. All six exploratory wells were dry.
Further ONGC has also drilled four Research & Development (R&D) wells for assessing the potential of coal bed methane in the Parbatpur block of Jharia Sub-basin, Dhanbad District, now in the State of Jharkhand, and is pursuing this activity.
Within the onland Bengal basin in West Bengal, 30 exploratory wells and one R&D well have been drilled by ONGC, as on 1.10.2000.
Each geological province is unique, characterized by its sediments, age and properties, which determine the exploration needs. As such any two provinces cannot be compared on the basis of their surface area alone. However, under the forthcoming New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) rounds, it is proposed to offer exploration blocks covering some parts of Bihar in the sedimentary basinal areas of Ganga, Vindhyan and Purnea basins for exploration.